



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, May 30, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

Most networks led with stories on North Korea's announcement this morning through its state media that it successfully test-fired a new type of ballistic missile on Monday using what it called a precision control guidance system.

SECURITY

Okinawa governor reiterates call for review of Henoko plan

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo reported on a press briefing on May 26 by Okinawa Governor Onaga, during which he renewed his call for a review of the plan to construct a new base at Henoko. The governor made the statement in response to recent remarks by Marine Corps Commandant Neller indicating the possibility of reviewing the plan to relocate the Okinawa Marines to Guam on account of recent developments in North Korea's nuclear and missile programs. The governor said that if the agreed-upon Guam relocation plan can be reviewed depending on the international situation, the Henoko plan should not be implemented hastily.

Component falls from Kadena-based F-15 during training

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that the Defense Ministry's Okinawa Bureau announced on Friday that a component weighing 2.3 kg fell from an F-15C fighter stationed at Kadena AB during training on the same day. The Air Force discovered after the training at around 7:10 a.m. that the part was missing from the aircraft. The papers reported that the U.S. side has provided no details about the incident, but said the component probably fell over the sea. There have been no reports

of property damage or injuries due to the incident. Okinawa Times wrote that Kadena Mayor Toyama said such a dangerous incident should have never happened.

Okinawa upset over U.S. military plan to use Navy ramp at Kadena

Saturday morning's Okinawa Times reported on a Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) announcement on Friday that four U-2 reconnaissance planes and some 180 airmen from Osan AB in South Korea will be temporarily stationed at Kadena AB for about 30 days. The local community is reacting strongly to a PACAF plan to have three of the four spy aircraft use a Navy ramp that the U.S. military promised not to use any more in accordance with the 1996 SACO agreement. While the U.S. military reportedly stressed that "every effort will be made to minimize noise" associated with the use of the ramp, the article said the Kadena mayor is extremely dissatisfied with the plan. The municipal leader reportedly exchanged "harsh words" over the phone on Thursday with Kadena Commander Cornish, who asked for the town's understanding for the use of ramp by the ROK-based planes, which he said is necessary to monitor the situation in North Korea because the runways at Osan are undergoing repair.

U.S. airman in Okinawa arrested for hit-and-run accident

Today's Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that an airman at Kadena AB was arrested on Monday in connection with a hit-and-run accident that occurred in Yomitan early in the morning, saying that he was intoxicated at the time. The suspect's vehicle allegedly rear-ended a car driven by a local woman. The service member left the scene without assisting the victim, who suffered a minor neck injury. The suspect has reportedly admitted the charge.

Sunday's Okinawa Times reported separately that another airman at Kadena AB was arrested on Saturday on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol in Chatan late Friday night, saying that he has denied the allegation.

The shift in PKO troops' responsibilities

Sunday's "NHK Special" reported that the GSDF troops that were deployed to South Sudan for UN peacekeeping operations returned to Japan this month, ending Japan's five-year mission in the war-torn country. The program interviewed members of the GSDF unit deployed to South Sudan, saying that it found that the responsibilities of PKO troops have shifted from monitoring ceasefires and supporting nation building to responding to the threat of terrorism and protecting civilians, which may involve the exchange of fire. The Japanese camp was reportedly caught in a clash between the government and anti-government forces in South Sudan and some of the SDF members feared for their lives. The program reported on other nations that deployed troops on peacekeeping missions, including China, which is rapidly increasing its presence in PKO, and the Netherlands, which fully discloses information on the activities of Dutch troops on a peacekeeping mission in Mali so that the public will be able to decide whether or not to continue sending troops to PKO. The program stressed the importance of understanding the actual operations the SDF troops are tasked with and

called for thorough nationwide discussions on how Japan should contribute to the international community.

- [North Korea fires apparent Scud-type missile that lands in Japan's exclusive economic zone](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Editorial: Apply experiences from PKO in South Sudan to future missions](#) (The Japan News)
- [Okinawa employs retired SDF official for first time](#) (Sankei)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Editorial: Trump's 'shared values' with G-7 leaders to be tested at summit](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Gist of Japan-U.S. summit meeting](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan, U.S. to explore deterrence](#) (The Japan News)
- [US, Japan agree to turn up heat on North Korea](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Japan, U.S. should enlist China to add pressure on North Korea](#) (The Japan News)
- [Gist of PM Abe's press conference in Italy](#) (Sankei)
- ['America first' shakes decades-long G-7 harmony](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Abe acts as bridge between U.S., Europe at G-7 summit](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Solidify unity among G-7 nations to avoid 'America first' isolation](#) (The Japan News)
- [N. Korea fires missile to Japan EEZ after G-7 vow to stem provocations](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Press Occasion on North Korea's Missile Launch](#) (TV / Social media)
- [Ruling, opposition parties denounce DPRK's missile launch](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Cartoon: Abe and Kim Jong Un](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan's foreign minister seeks China's "active role" over N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Japanese, Chinese ruling parties to hold talks in Aug.](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Northern territories research trip scheduled](#) (The Japan News)
- [Analysis: The hidden side of the Japanese-Russian summit](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Japan insists U.N. chief backs “comfort women” deal](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, France to cooperate on security](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan, EU leaders agree to accelerate EPA talks](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan, Malta leaders affirm importance of rule of law at sea](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

- [TPP chief negotiators to meet in Japan in mid-July](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan puts free early education, drug reform on wish list](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [TPP Chief Negotiator Katakami’s common-sense views](#) (Yomiuri Online)
- [Drone deliveries key to government growth strategy](#) (The Japan News)
- [Public-private fund mulls Toshiba chip bid with Western Digital](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Nuclear storage crisis grows as reactor restarts continue](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Interview series \(Part 1\): Former MHLW chief Otsuji on social welfare reform](#) (Nikkei)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister’s schedule on May 29](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister’s schedule on May 27, 28](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister’s schedule on May 26, 27](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister’s schedule on May 25, 26](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of interpellations at Upper House plenary session, May 29](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

- [**Abe expresses gratitude for G7 members' support for anti-conspiracy bill**](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [**Editorial: Diet should dispel lingering doubts over conspiracy bill**](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [**Editorial: Upper house's raison d'être tested by 'anti-conspiracy' bill talks**](#) (The Mainichi)
- [**Cartoon: Anti-conspiracy bill**](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [**Editorial: Gov't must explain meticulously about process of designating special zones**](#) (The Japan News)
- [**Cartoon: Abe and Maekawa**](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [**Editorial: LDP's move to add clause to Constitution defining SDF raises questions**](#) (The Mainichi)
- [**Editorial: LDP must lead concrete discussions on constitutional revision proposals**](#) (The Japan News)
- [**Analysis: Dismal lack of competition behind Abe's support rates**](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [**Kishida eyes prime ministership as LDP's Kochi Kai faction celebrates 60th anniversary**](#) (The Japan Times)
- [**Abe, Trudeau hail progress on defense supplies sharing pact**](#) (Kyodo News)

OPINION POLLS

- [**51% in favor of "adding SDF to Article 9," cabinet support down to 56%, Nikkei poll**](#) (Nikkei)
- [**Many Komeito supporters, independents opposed to adding SDF to Article 9, Nikkei poll**](#) (Nikkei)
- [**Trend in average cabinet support rate, Saitama University Social Survey Research Center**](#) (Saitama University Social Survey Research Center)
- [**LDP leads Koike's party ahead of Tokyo assembly election, Kyodo News poll**](#) (Kyodo News)

EDUCATION

Female college students recount experiences in TOMODACHI Initiative program in U.S.

TBS's evening news show "N Suta" reported on a graduation ceremony held in Tokyo on Sunday for participants in the 2017 TOMODACHI MetLife Women's Leadership Program. The broadcaster said the TOMODACHI Initiative was launched following the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011 as a bilateral public-private sector effort focusing on education and cultural exchange. Fifty female Japanese college students, who met with government officials, lawmakers, and business leaders in Washington and New York in March, talked about what they learned. The network reported that U.S. Embassy Minister Counselor for Public Affairs Margot Carrington said during the ceremony that the program is very valuable because it helps the participants acquire leadership skills. She added that the participants will be able to become the leaders the U.S. and Japan need if they continue learning through such exchanges.

- [Editorial: Limiting universities in Tokyo](#) (The Japan Times)

SOCIETY

Will the fish market move to Toyosu or remain in Tsukiji?

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" on Monday reported on the issue of the Tsukiji Fish Market in Tokyo, saying that attention is focused on whether or not Tokyo Governor Koike will go ahead with relocating the market to Toyosu as planned. The program said fish wholesalers are perplexed by the current situation, adding that they are split between those who support relocating the market to Toyosu and those who would prefer to keep it in Tsukiji. In addition to the soil pollution problem in Toyosu, the emergence of a plan to rebuild the existing Tsukiji market is reportedly creating more confusion.

Experts discuss pros and cons of anti-conspiracy bill

NHK's "Nichiyo Toron" Sunday debate show aired a discussion on the GOJ-sponsored anti-conspiracy bill by six experts. Chuo University Professor Makoto Ida and two other panelists stressed the need to enact the bill to enhance Japan's ability to prevent international terrorism through participation in the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. However, Kyoto University Professor Kanako Takayama and two other discussants argued against the bill out of concern that government authorities' surveillance of the general public will increase if the bill is enacted.

- [Nearly half of foster facilities accept LGBT children: survey](#) (Kyodo News)
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